

BRIGADE

DEFENSIVE

OPERATIONS

PURPOSE OF THE DEFENSE

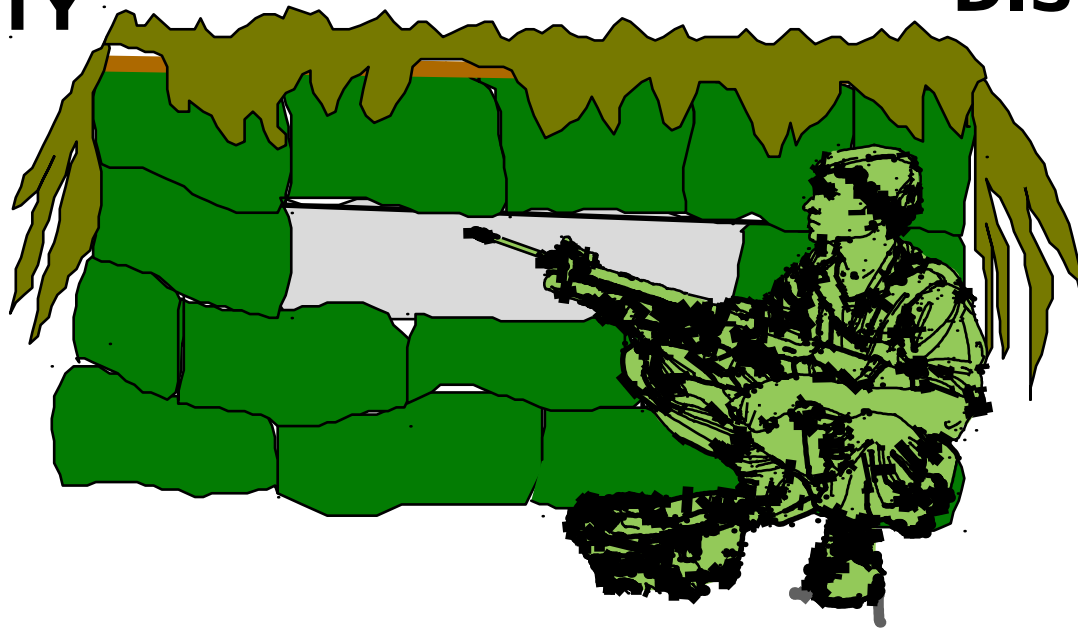
- To cause an enemy attack to fail.**
- To regain the tactical initiative or create the opportunity for higher HQ to shift the offensive.**

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEFENSE

PREPARATION

SECURITY

DISRUPTION



FLEXIBILITY

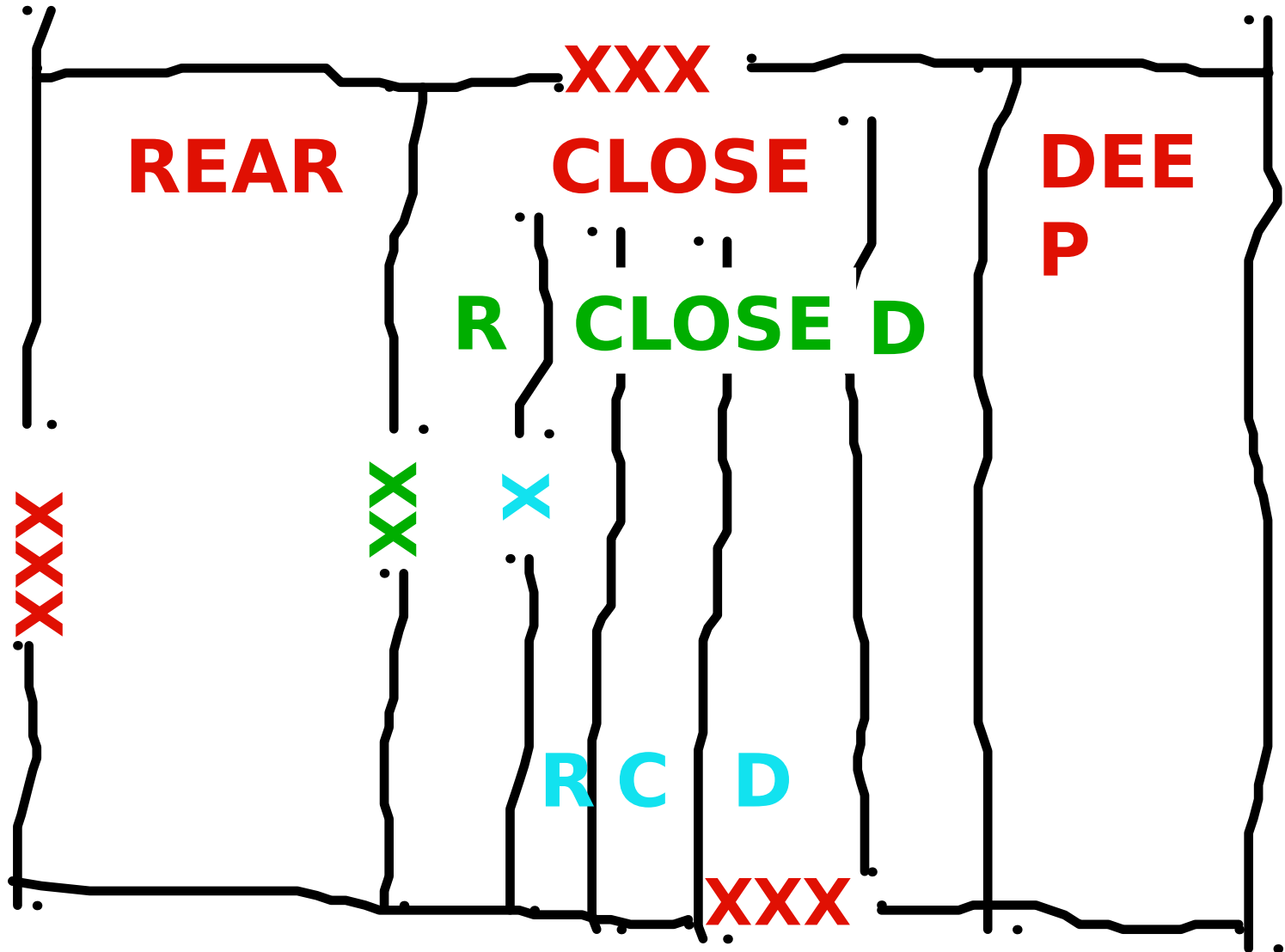
MASS & CONCENTRATION

DEFENSIVE **FRAMEWORK**

The brigade commander conducts simultaneous operations in depth and organizes the battle into three complimentary elements:

- Deep Operations**
- Close Operations**
- Rear Operations**

BATTLEFIELD FRAMEWORK



DEEP OPERATIONS

Operations directed against enemy forces and functions beyond the close battle (FLOT).

- Brigades normally require augmentation (A).**
- Brigades may also maneuver cross FLOT as part of the division's deep attack.**

CLOSE OPERATIONS

For defensive operations, the close area is divided into 3 sub-areas:

- Security Area.**
- Main Battle Area.**
- Reserve.**

SECURITY AREA

- **The battlespace found between the FEBA and the FLOT.**
- **Brigades sometimes perform security missions for the division here (Guard, Co**

SECURITY MISSIONS

1. SCREEN

2. GUARD

3. COVER


MAIN BATTLE AREA

- **Generally the area between the FEBA and brigade rear boundary.**
- **Brigades array the bulk of their forces in area.**
- **Bulk of engineer effort, battle positions, engagement areas.**

RESERVE

- Size, composition, and location of reserve dependent on threat assessment (METT-T)**
- Task and purpose of reserve force determined during the wargaming process.**
- Committed at the decisive point of the battle to ensure enemy defeat.**

RESERVE OPERATIONS

- **Commitment of the reserve is the commander's most critical decision during the defense.**
 - **Once committed, the reserve becomes the main effort.**
 - **Primary purpose is to regain the initiative**
 - 1. Counterattack.**
 - 2. Spoiling attack.**
 - 3. Raid.**
- Flanks or rear.**
- 

RESERVE OPERATIONS

(cont)

- The reserve can also be used to:**
 - 1. Block penetrations.**
 - 2. Contain enemy that has penetrated.**
 - 3. React to rear area and flank threats.**
 - 4. Relieve depleted units (reinforce).**

REAR OPERATIONS

- **Includes self protection and LOC maintenance**
- **Brigades normally assign a TCF.**
- **Brigades may be the TCF for division or co**

SYNCHRONIZATION

- To focus combat power, the command designates a main effort.**
- All other forces' actions are linked to main effort to provide cohesion and synchronization.**
- Synchronization is organized by BOS**

INTELLIGENCE

- Bde S2 focused on the IPB, specifically:

- 1. Composition, equipment, strengths and weaknesses of the enemy.**
- 2. Location, speed, and direction of enemy**
- 3. Follow-on forces.**
- 4. Enemy C2.**
- 5. Brigade AO and battlespace (terrain anal**

AVIATION MANEUVER

- Key to regaining the initiative through inh speed, lethality, agility, and flexibility.

Can conduct:

- 1. Reconnaissance.**
- 2. Attacks/defenses.**
- 3. Air assaults (w/infantry).**
- 4. Cover/guard (with ground maneuver)**

FIRE SUPPORT

- **FS assets used to disrupt and weaken the and provide opportunities for the counteratt**
- **Brigades normally employ centralized control of FS in the defense.**

FIRE SUPPORT

(cont)

- FSCoord focuses planning on the following tasks:

- 1. Engaging the enemy early and throughout brigade AO.**
- 2. Supporting rear operations.**
- 3. Deep fires to delay/disrupt follow-on units.**
- 4. Screen friendly units.**
- 5. Counterfire and obstacle integration.**

AIR DEFENSE

- **Passive and active defense measures.**
- **Priorities of protection:**
 1. **C2.**
 2. **Covering force.**
 3. **FS.**
 4. **BSA.**
- **Positioned to achieve mass (centralized)**

MOBILITY AND **SURVIVABILITY**

- **Priority of effort:**
 1. **Security zone - mobility for passing up then countermobility against threat.**
 2. **MBA - tradeoff between cmob / surv.**
 3. **Rear - mobility then survivability for C reserve, CSS.**
- **Defensive opns require centralized management**

NBC

- **Commander continuously plans for the possible enemy use of NBC weapons.**
- **Commander plans for decon priorities.**
- **NBC recon focuses on clean and dirty areas, routes, and decon sites that directly affect operations.**

CSS

- **Bde S4 and FSB Cdr must understand Bde intent.**
- **Key concerns are real estate management rear area threats.**
- **Other considerations include:**
 - 1. Prestock supplies (CL IV,V).**
 - 2. Fix as far forward as possible.**
 - 3. Push supply so flow is uninterrupted in event of comms malfunction.**

COMMAND AND **CONTROL**

- **Commanders will not wait for a complete OPORD to conduct planning (WARNOs).**
- **Command posts:**
 - 1. TAC.**
 - 2. Main.**
 - 3. Rear.**

AREA DEFENSE

- Purpose: Retention of terrain or facilities for a specified time
- Conducted as part of a division or corps defense
- May elect to defend forward or in depth
- May assign sectors or battle positions
- May involve the establishment of a strongpoint

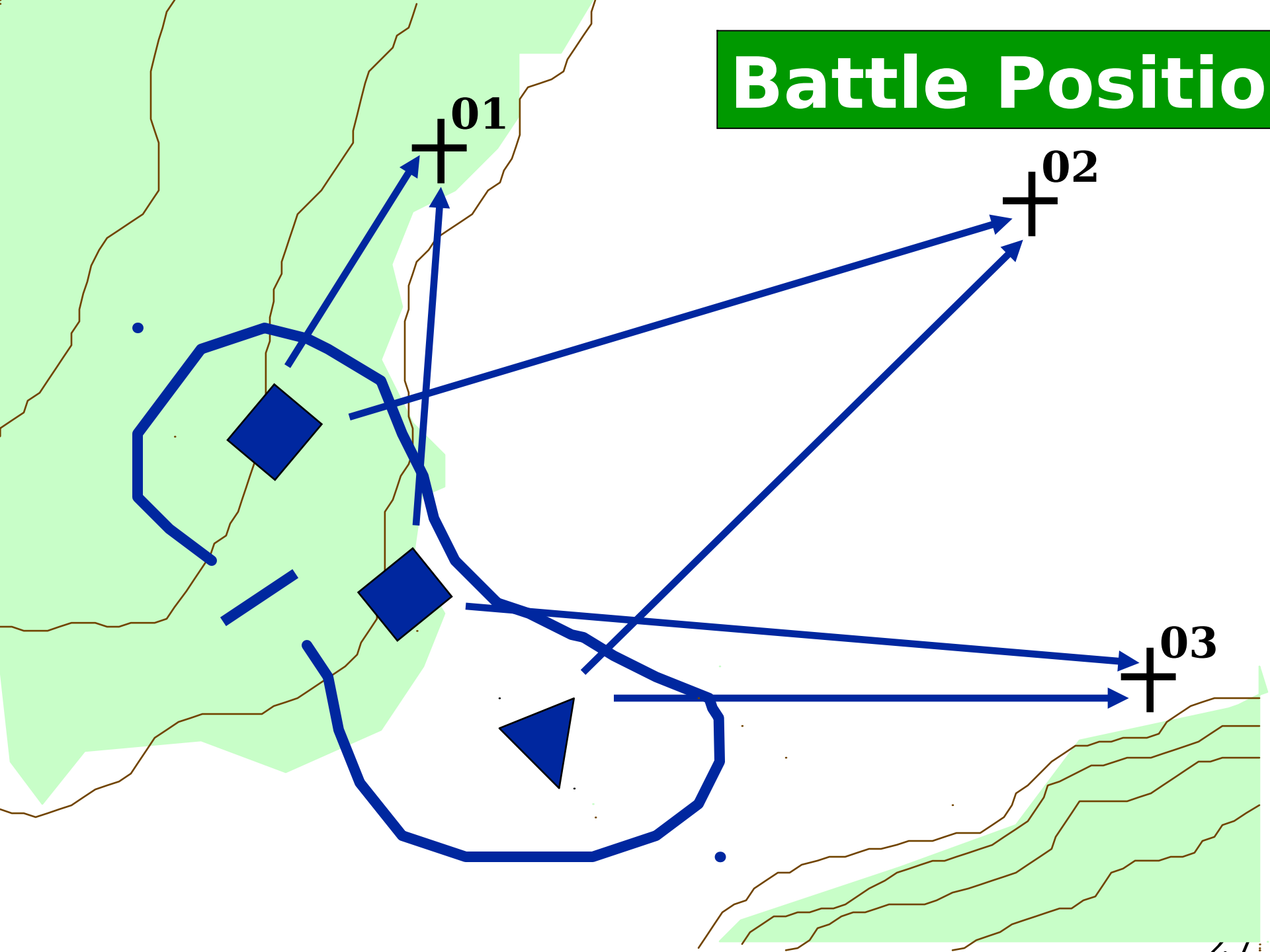
TYPES OF DEFENSE

1. BATTLE POSITION

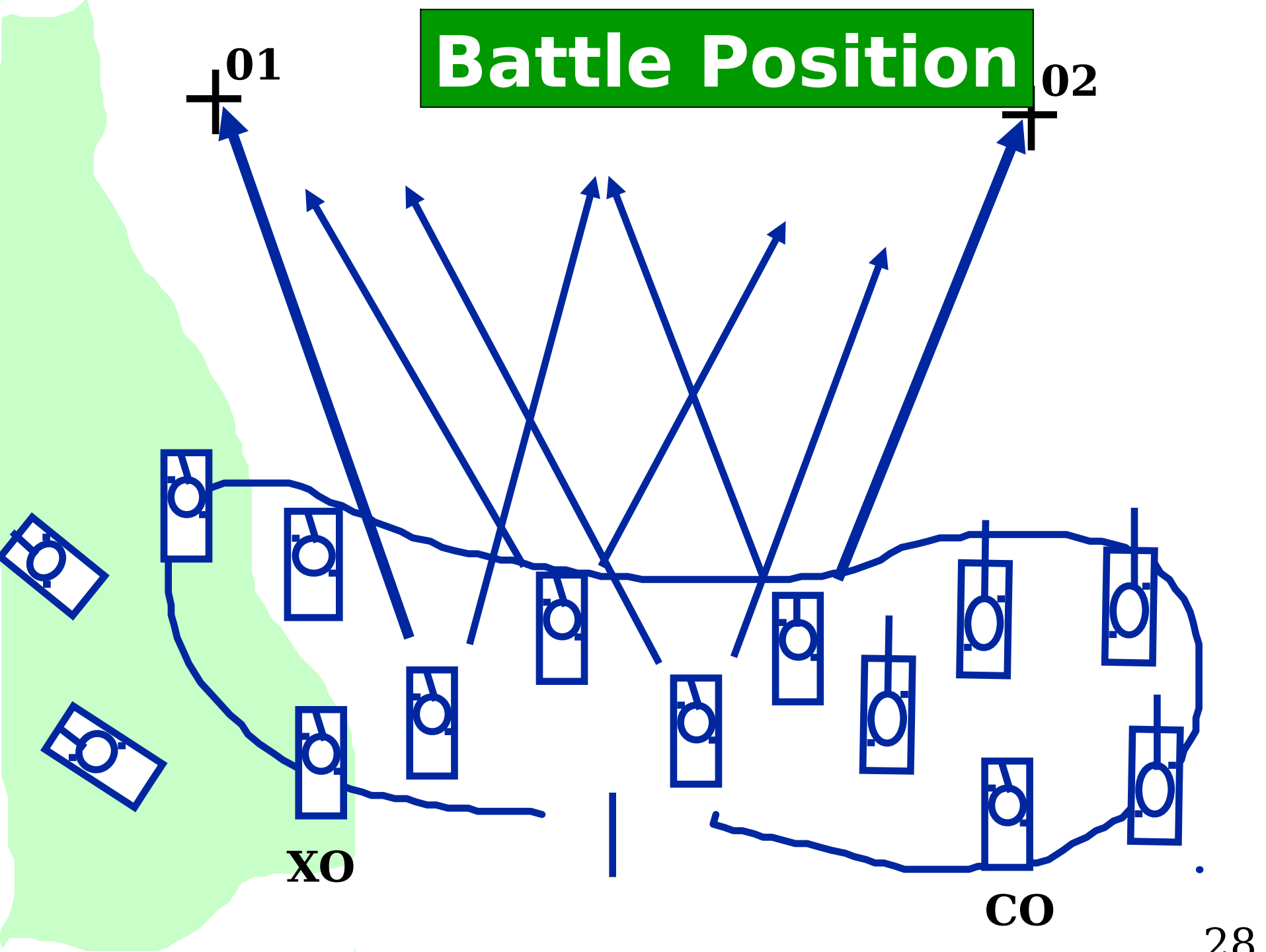
2. STRONGPOINT

3. SECTOR

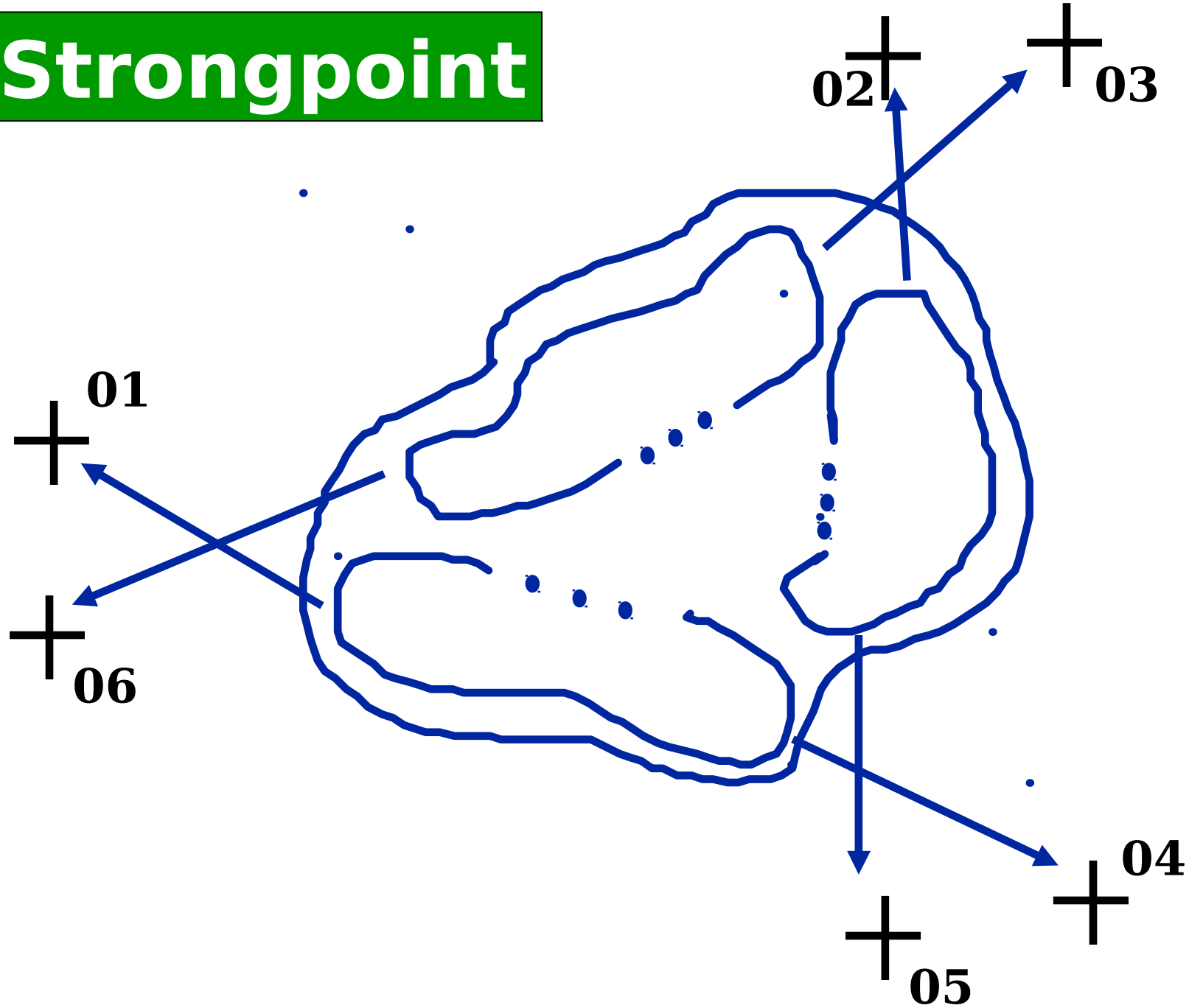
Battle Position



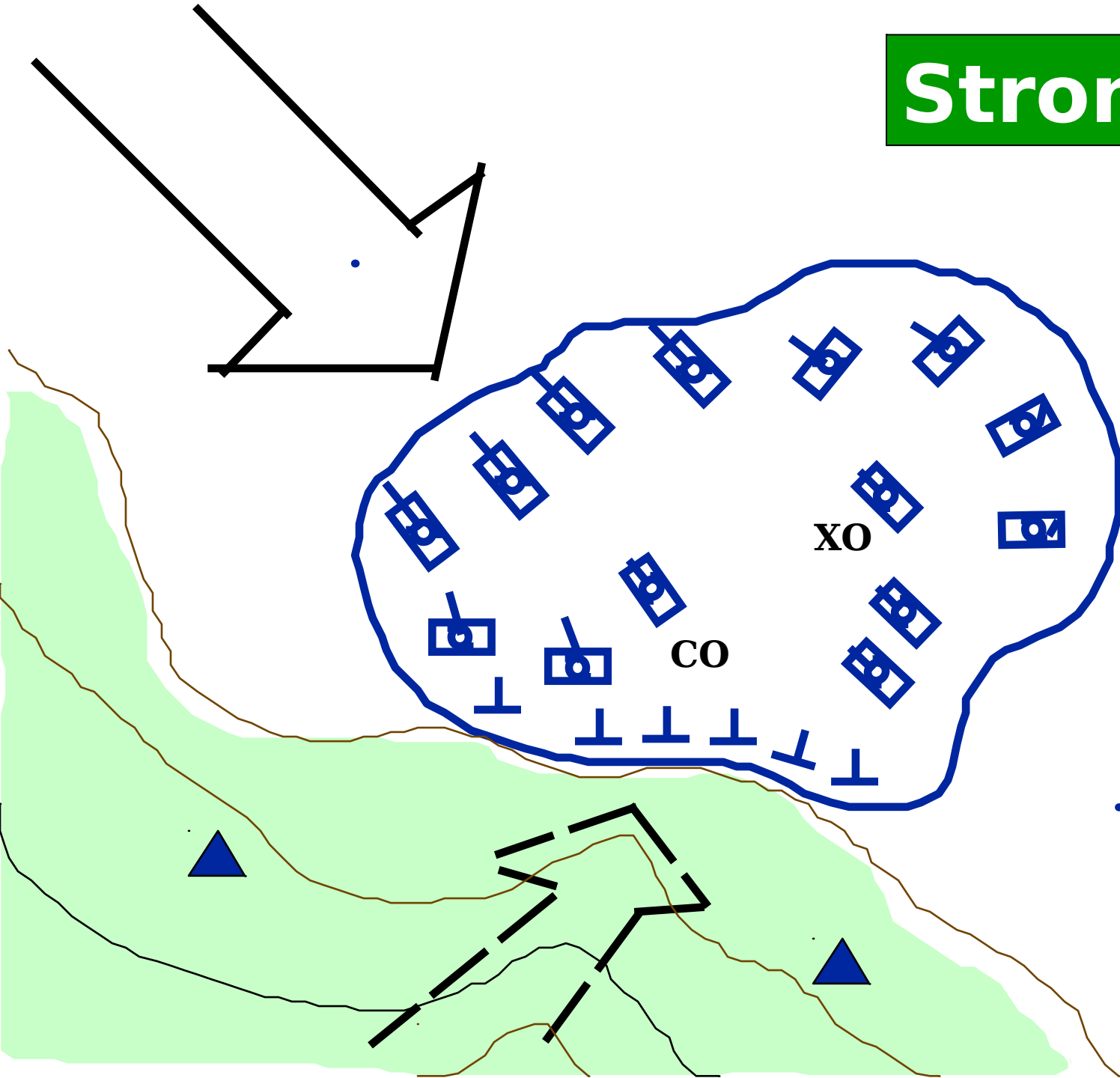
Battle Position



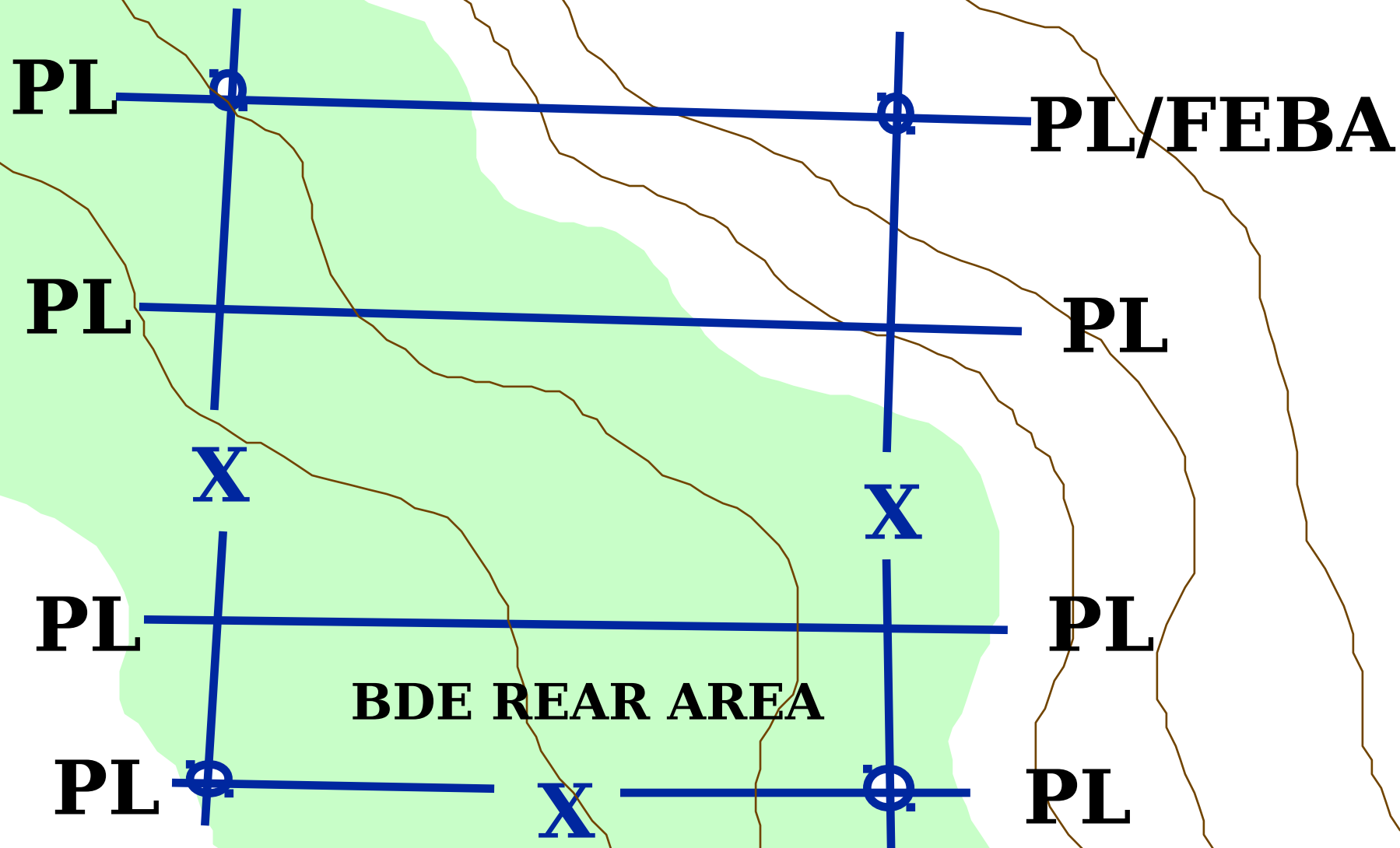
Strongpoint



Strongpoint



Sector Defense



Sector

PL/FEBA

PL

PL

PL

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A

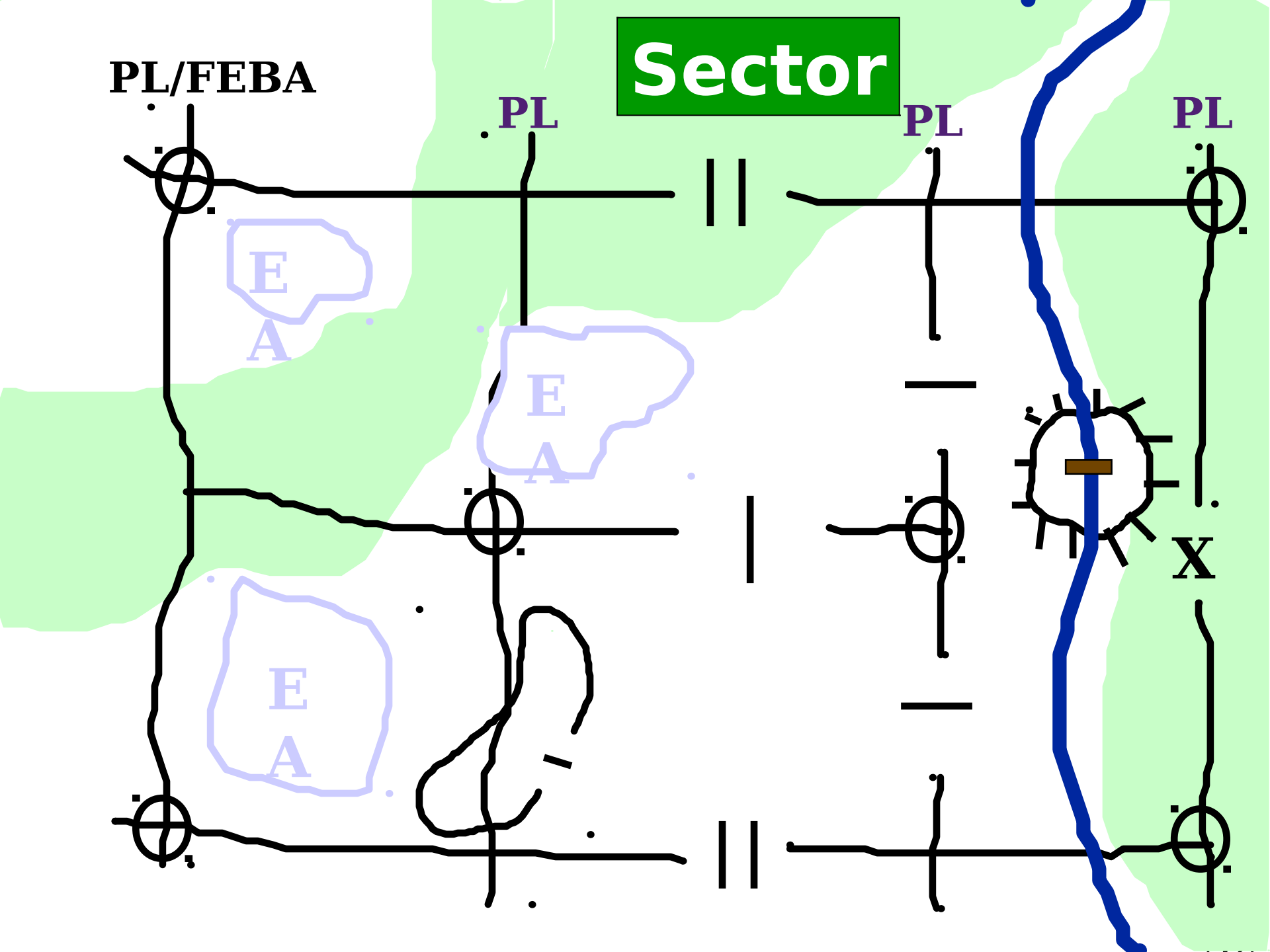
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MOBILE DEFENSE

- Purpose: Orients on the destruction of the attacking force by permitting the enemy to maneuver to a position of disadvantage that exposes him to a striking force.
- Not generally conducted by a brigade, but may be
- Employs a covering force, a fixing force, a striking force, and a reserve force
- Assumes a high degree of risk

COMPARISON OF MOBILE AND AREA DEFENSE

- **Mobile Defense**

- Orients on the enemy
- Mobility greater than or equal to the enemy
- Defend with minimum force
- Fire and maneuver
- Striking force
- Striking force used at the decisive

- **Area Defense**

- Deny enemy access to designated terrain for a specific time
- Mutual supporting positions and in depth
- Defend with maximum force
- Interlocking fires
- Smaller mobile reserve for local counterattacks

RETROGRADE OPERATIONS

- **Definition:**

An organized movement to the rear or away from the enemy. The operation may be forced by enemy action, or it may be executed voluntarily. **In either case, must be approved by the higher commander.**

RETROGRADE OPERATIONS

Delay

An operation conducted to inflict maximum delay and damage on an advancing enemy without becoming decisively engaged.

- **Planning**

- Conducted by Brigade or Larger Unit

- **Preparation**

- Movement Plan

- Logistics Plan

- **Execution**

- Integrate Aviation Assets



RETROGRADE OPERATIONS

Withdrawal:

Disengagement from the enemy, either unassisted or assisted by another force.

•Planning

- Phased Operations

•Preparation

- Coordinated Rearward Passage of Lines

 - ›BHL

 - ›PPs

 - ›FSCMs

•Execution



RETROGRADE OPERATIONS



Retirement:

An operation in which a force not in contact moves away from the enemy.

- **Planning**

- Tank-Heavy Rear Guard Supported by FA, ADA, and TACAIR Normally Required

- **Preparation**

- Coordinated BHL and FSCMs
 - Rehearsal

- **Execution**

OTHER DEFENSIVE **ROLES**

- 1. Tactical Combat Force (TCF).**
- 2. Offensive operations across the FLO while the majority of the division or corps defends.**
- 3. Retain key terrain.**

SUMMARY

QUESTIONS

ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the organization, capabilities, and limitations of the Heavy Maneuver Brigade.
- Discuss the conduct of offensive operations at the brigade level.
- Discuss the conduct of defensive operations at the brigade level.
- Discuss the conduct of other tactical operations at the brigade level.

TERMINAL LEARNING

OBJECTIVE

ACTION: Apply the BDE fight concept to operational planning.

CONDITIONS: Given information on a tactical situation while serving as the plans officer in the BDE S3 position, the commander's guidance, appropriate references, and the requirement to develop a BDE plan of operations.

STANDARD: Develop a course of action that is sound, feasible, and acceptable based on the current tactical situation in accordance with the fundamentals of offensive, defensive, and retrograde operations.